AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-implemented method of planning demand for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, comprising:

    providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of product independent characteristics and product dependent characteristics;

    receiving, by a processor, a selection of at least one product to be represented;

    receiving, by the processor, a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented;

    receiving, by the processor, a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic or product;

    loading, by the processor, data from the data storage system into a buffer;

    performing, by the processor, a calculation on the data with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics;

    modelling, by the processor, a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with the planning parameter; and

    using the hierarchy to administer the buffered data, the administration of the buffered data comprising performing a propagating

recalculation of a change in the data through the data storage system, wherein the recalculation differs from that defined by the planning parameter and includes calculating an incidence of each product dependent characteristic and each product independent characteristic in accordance with the selected product.

2.   (Cancelled).

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising: storing the recalculated data in the data storage system.

4.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 3, further comprising: loading the recalculated data into the data storage system.

5.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the calculation is a disaggregation calculation.

6.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the recalculation is a disaggregation or an aggregation calculation.

7.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the data storage system is an object oriented data base.

8.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the modelling step includes modelling the hierarchy with respect to the product dependent characteristics and the product independent characteristics.

9.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the calculating step is carried out by the data storage system.

10.   (Cancelled).

11.   (Currently Amended)   A demand planner apparatus for planning demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain, [[,]] said demand planner apparatus comprising:

a storage medium storing processor readable code to plan demand for a configurable product in a managed supply chain, said code comprising:

data loading code to load data from a data storage system into a buffer,

calculation performing code to perform a calculation on the data with respect to product dependent characteristics and product independent characteristics, and

hierarchy modelling code to model a hierarchy of the data, wherein the hierarchy is defined in accordance with a planning parameter, wherein the hierarchy is used to administer the buffered data, and the administration of the buffered data comprises performing a propagating recalculation of a change in the data through the data storage system, the recalculation differing from that defined by the planning parameter and including calculating an incidence of each product dependent characteristic and each product independent

characteristic in accordance with the selected

product, and

wherein the demand planner is operatively associated with the data

storage system to store data with respect to the product

independent characteristics and the product dependent

characteristics, and wherein the demand planner is operatively

associated with a user interface for receiving input of a selection of

at least one product to be represented, input of a selection of a

particular characteristic to be represented, and input of the planning

parameter with respect to the selection of a particular characteristic

or product.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The demand planner apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein administering the buffered data includes performing a propagating

recalculation of a change in the data through the data storage system, where the

calculation differs from that defined by the planning parameter.

13 - 14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable medium storing program

instructions executable by a processor to perform a method of planning demand

for a configurable product having at least one product dependent characteristic

and one product independent characteristic in a managed supply chain, the

method comprising:

providing a data storage system to store data with respect to a plurality of

product independent characteristics and product dependent

characteristics;

receiving a selection of at least one product to be represented;

receiving a selection of a particular characteristic to be represented;

receiving a planning parameter with respect to the selection of a particular
characteristic or product;

loading data from the data storage system into a buffer;

performing a calculation on the data with respect to the product dependent
characteristics and the product independent characteristics;

modeling a hierarchy of the represented data, wherein the hierarchy is
defined in accordance with the planning parameter; and

using the hierarchy to administer the buffered data, the administration of
the buffered data comprising performing a propagating
recalculation of a change in the data through the data storage
system, wherein the recalculation differs from that defined by the
planning parameter and includes calculating an incidence of each
product dependent characteristic and each product independent
characteristic in accordance with the selected product.